

In memory of August Dvorak

August Dvorak, Ph. D., author of the forthcoming Synergistic Typing for ASK and of a hundred published scholarly works before it, died on October 9, 1975.

His Typewriting Behavior (American Book, 1936), written with W. B. Dealey, Nell Merrick, and Gertrude Ford, is a seminal work on alphanumeric keyboard learning and teaching, which has been freely used by younger authors.

The Dvorak name is on the title page of Merrick and Bown, My Typewriter and I (American Book, 1937), a seventh-grade grammar text for classes conducted with a typewriter on each desk. This text, with a Simplified-arrangement supplement, was used in a large-scale application in the Tacoma, Washington, public schools at one time. Students in the typewriter-equipped classes learned more grammar than the control group and acquired a useful typing skill as well, without any extra expenditure of time.

Dvorak, Scientific Typing (American Book, 1939) a learner's manual for personal and vocational typing, was also published for the traditional arrangement, with a Simplified Keyboard Supplement, and it is this supplement which has been supplied by Levine Books, of Irvington, New Jersey, to purchasers of Synergistic to tide them over.

The death of the author, who was attending to copyright negotiations and the printing, may cause further delay in the delivery of the promised complete manual for the American Simplified Keyboard.

Remembering very well the exhaustive investigation that the authors of Behavior, together with Frank and Lillian Gilbreth, had made before the publication of that report, August Dvorak nonetheless was at all times willing to concede the possibility that some other researcher had devised a better arrangement. He examined each one that came to his attention; all suffered sadly in comparison with the classic Dvorak diagram until Joseph Rosenblum, consultant on product planning to the Smith-Corona Laboratory, presented his solution to the promotability problem with a diagram that preserves the traditional arrangement of the digits and all the traditional pairing. Rosenblum accepted one Dvorak recommendation, relocating four characters, and Dvorak and his wife, Hermione, went to work on the manual for ASK operator training.

Bibliographic notes

Graphic Communications Weekly, August 26, 1975, page 10. Address, 7060 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90028.

Data Processing Digest, August, 1975. 6820 La Tijera Blvd, Los Angeles, California 90045.

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Santa Rosa Press-Democrat, Tuesday, Sept. 2, 1975, Barrett, Eldon, "Typewriter Keyboard Revised to Shorten Finger Movements". 425 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, California 95403.

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Coronamatic 1200. Send check or money order for \$264.50 to any of the Speedy Keyboard application specialists listed in column 1.

Instruction

Some private teaching organizations do offer Simplified-keyboard instruction. Quick Strokes columns are open to their advertising. A student who is equipped with his own Simplified typewriter and the right manual of exercises may approach a public-school teacher with confidence. A turndown by such a teacher would be a confession of incompetence.

The right manuals are Dvorak, Synergistic Typing, not yet in stock but expected, \$16.50 from Speedy Keyboard specialists, and Simplified Keyboard Supplement with emendations for ASK, \$4.50. The teacher can recommend copy for the missing lessons.

Keyboard Name Smith-Corona American Simplified Keyboard (ASK)		SMITH-CORONA		Keyboard No. 1776							
		Keyboard Chart		44 Key 88 Character							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	[]	+ =
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

CT - Changeable Type RK - Repeat Key © SCM Corporation 1975

American National standardization

The capital x in the number of the American National Standards Committee on office machines and supplies means that their industry is twenty-fourth on the list of industries for which the American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, publishes standards. These are consensus standards, and all interests that are likely to be affected by them have access to the ANS committees which draw them up. Thus the X4 ANS committee is made up of members representing companies and associations whose field is office machines and supplies -- manufacturers, users, dealers, and operators.

In the international field, ANSI is the sponsor. American delegations to technical committees (TCs) and subcommittees (SCs) of the International Standardization Organization (ISO, headquarters in Geneva) represent ANSI. Domestic standardization (American National standards) is sponsored by an organization in the field. For ANS committees numbered X, the sponsor is the Computer and Business Equipment Manufacturers' Association, 1828 L St., N.W., Washington, D. C.

Preliminary and preparatory work is handled in subcommittees and ad hoc committees. Here, members do not represent organizations but are selected for their expert knowledge concerning the item to be standardized.

X4 has had an ad hoc committee on "Dvoraklike" alphanumeric keyboard arrangements since 1973, designated X4/DSK. Its membership is as follows:

Lloyd Burstein, research engineer, Federal Aviation Administration
 Ian Clinton, product planner, Burroughs minicomputers
 Philip Davis, teacher and dealer, Speedy Keyboard
 Claude Kagan, research engineer, Bell System
 Robert Morton, teacher and administrator
 Joseph Rosenblum, product planner, SCM Corporation
 Lawrence Ross, printer and inventor

Lawrence Schear, electrical and electronic engineer

J. F. White, business consultant

Communications should be addressed to Davis, as chairman, in care of W. F. Hanrahan, secretary, ANS Committee X4, at CBEMA. The zip is 20036.

X4/DSK is at the stage of seeking a consensus of its own members on a scope and a program of work on a standardization project, to accompany a letter ballot to be voted on by the parent committee, X4. Different sets of characters are used on different kinds of keyboard work, and so the standard for Dvorak-like arrangements will have to contain several different diagrams. In the standard, no reference will be made to work simplification.

Clerical productivity at a Bell System location

"I see you're left handed," said Robert Wilson to Patti Beavers, the fastest of the Simplified keyboard operators at Eastern Region of Western Electric Corporation, Cockeysville, Maryland. Mrs. Beavers was writing with a pen; Mr. Wilson had observed her and the other retrainees throughout the Simplified typing course for which he was the instructor, but always at a typewriter.

Quick Strokes had not come to Cockeysville to check on the effect of handedness and is not ready to assert that left handedness is of any considerable advantage in Simplified typing, but it certainly seems not to be disqualifying.

Wilson retrained six secretaries, all of them expert on the traditional arrangement. Conversion by substituting a Simplified element in Selectric typewriters was objected to, partly because the arrangement on the elements that they were using removes the underscore from the repeat action. All six of the Simplified machines in use at Eastern Region have now been converted by interchanging interposers and installing a universal vane.

By now, there may be seven Simplified Selectrics there. One of the retrained operators, Miss Marnita Howard, reverted to traditional typing. "It took two weeks," she says. The location still had six on Simplified, however, because a seventh operator undertook to train herself and succeeded. Miss Howard, less concerned now about the portability of her Simplified skill, may have rereverted.

All the operators definitely prefer the Simplified arrangement. They see the reduction in finger travel as the main advantage; when the fingers do less reaching and hurdling from row to row, the work goes better, faster, and more easily. It should be borne in mind that these operators had no complaints over the difficulties of the traditional arrangement; for operators of their natural talent, the built-in difficulties of q, w, e, r, t, y typing are not formidable.

Perhaps some of these harbingers of spring will decide to find out what their peak speed is. Their gross and net speed may be expected to improve from the exercise of the day's work alone, but it is doubtful whether anybody has reached the speeds we call terrific without long practice at a clip that would be risky on mailable typescript.

The Cockeysville retrainees had attained a sixty-word-a-minute speed, together with a low error rate, long before the course was terminated. Of course the training should continue; on the other hand, is not this a good point at which to reduce the length and frequency of training sessions?

Massed head

Quick Strokes is published quarterly by Philip Davis at 267 Ellis Avenue, Irvington, New Jersey 07111. Subscription \$5 per year. Advertising, \$3 per square inch, full page \$210.

Pendleton, Indiana -- Herman Hagemier's typescript from a Selectric converted by Simplified element and released vane link shows all letters and digits ok, comma, period, and hyphen punching.

On QS editorial board

Belmont Adams, of Scarborough, Maine, accountant and lecturer, researcher and traveler, furnished the inspiration for the Simplified typing application at Union Mutual Insurance Co., of Portland, Maine.



Distinguished operators

Have you ever been timed, or have you timed yourself, at 92 to 192 words a minute? On Simplified, of course. If so, please send to Quick Strokes, 267 Ellis Avenue, Irvington, New Jersey, an updated curriculum vitae. This is not an Olsten contest nor a Guinness competition; we take your word for it.

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